Amendments to the claims:

Please amend Claims 28, 31, 35-44, 49 and 53 as set forth below.

Please cancel Claims 29-30, 32-33, 45-48, 52, 54, 57, 60-63 and 70-72 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the claims:

1.-27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently amended) A method of reducing~~treating a~~ viral ~~infection~~load of a herpes infection in an interstitial space of~~in~~ a mammal, the method comprising:

~~selecting~~identifying a mammal ~~infected by an envelope virus or~~ suspected of having been infected by ~~an envelope~~a herpes virus in an interstitial space;

providing said mammal an amount of a pharmaceutical composition consisting essentially of beta-cyclodextrin; and

measuring the reduction of the viral load of herpes in the interstitial space of ~~administering to the mammal an amount of a cholesterol-sequestering agent effective to reduce viral load in~~ the mammal.

29. (Cancelled) The method of claim 28, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is a cyclodextrin.

30. (Cancelled) The method of claim 29, wherein the cyclodextrin is a beta-cyclodextrin.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[30]]28, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin is 2-OH-propyl-beta-cyclodextrin.

32. (Cancelled) The method of claim 28, wherein the amount of the cholesterol-sequestering agent administered to the mammal is effective to reduce viral load in the blood of the mammal.

33. (Cancelled) The method of claim 28, wherein the amount of the cholesterol-sequestering agent administered to the mammal is effective to reduce viral load in an interstitial space of the mammal.

34. (Original) The method of claim 28, further comprising administering to the mammal an amount of a cholesterol lowering agent effective to reduce the level of serum cholesterol in the mammal.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin ~~cholesterol-sequestering agent~~ is ~~administered~~ provided intravenously.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin ~~cholesterol-sequestering agent~~ is ~~administered~~ provided by a bolus injection.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin ~~cholesterol-sequestering agent~~ is infused into the mammal over a period of at least two minutes.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 37, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin ~~cholesterol-sequestering agent~~ is ~~administered~~ provided in at least two intravenous administrations separated by an interval of at least one hour.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 37, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin ~~cholesterol-sequestering agent~~ is ~~administered~~ provided in at least four intravenous administrations separated by an interval of at least 12 hours.

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin ~~cholesterol-sequestering agent~~ is ~~co-administered~~ provided with at least one antiviral agent.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises measuring the titer of the envelope virus after ~~administration of~~ providing the beta-cyclodextrin ~~cholesterol-sequestering agent~~.

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises measuring the titer of the envelope virus before ~~administration of~~ providing the beta-cyclodextrin ~~cholesterol-sequestering agent~~.

43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises measuring an immune response in the mammal against the ~~envelope~~ herpes virus after ~~administration of~~ providing the beta-cyclodextrin ~~cholesterol-sequestering agent~~.

44. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the method comprises measuring an immune response in the mammal against the ~~envelope~~ herpes virus before ~~administration of~~ providing the beta-cyclodextrin ~~cholesterol-sequestering agent~~.

45. (Cancelled) The method of claim 28, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered to a dermal surface of the mammal.

46. (Cancelled) The method of claim 45, wherein the mammal has a skin lesion resulting from an infection by the envelope virus, and wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is applied topically to the skin lesion.

47. (Cancelled) The method of claim 46, wherein the topical administration of the cholesterol-sequestering agent results in a reduction in viral load in the skin lesion.

48. (Cancelled) The method of claim 46, wherein the envelope virus is a herpes virus.

49. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[48]]28, wherein the herpes virus is human herpes virus 1.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the herpes virus is human herpes virus 2.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 46, wherein the envelope virus is a poxvirus.

52. (Cancelled) The method of claim 45, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered to the dermal surface in the form of a cream.

53. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[45]]28, wherein the beta-cyclodextrin ~~cholesterol-sequestering agent~~ is ~~co-administered~~ provided with at least one antiviral agent.

54. (Cancelled) A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ an infection in a mammal, the method comprising: selecting a mammal infected by a microorganism or suspected of having been infected by a microorganism, wherein during at least a portion of its life cycle the microorganism enters a cell of the mammal by endocytosis; and administering to the mammal an amount of a cholesterol-sequestering agent effective to reduce the load of the microorganism in the mammal.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a bacterium.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a mycobacterium.

57. (Cancelled) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a virus.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a fungus.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 54, wherein the microorganism is a protozoan.

60. (Cancelled) The method of claim 54, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered to the upper respiratory tract of the mammal.

61. (Cancelled) The method of claim 54, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered to the lower respiratory tract of the mammal.

62. (Cancelled) The method of claim 54, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered to the mammal by inhalation.

63. (Cancelled) The method of claim 54, wherein the cholesterol-sequestering agent is administered to the mammal by intrathecal administration.

64.-69. (Canceled).

70. (Cancelled) The method of claim 57, wherein the virus is an envelope virus.

71. (Cancelled) The method of claim 70, wherein the envelope virus is a human herpes virus.

72. (Cancelled) The method of claim 71, wherein the human herpes virus is human herpes virus 1.